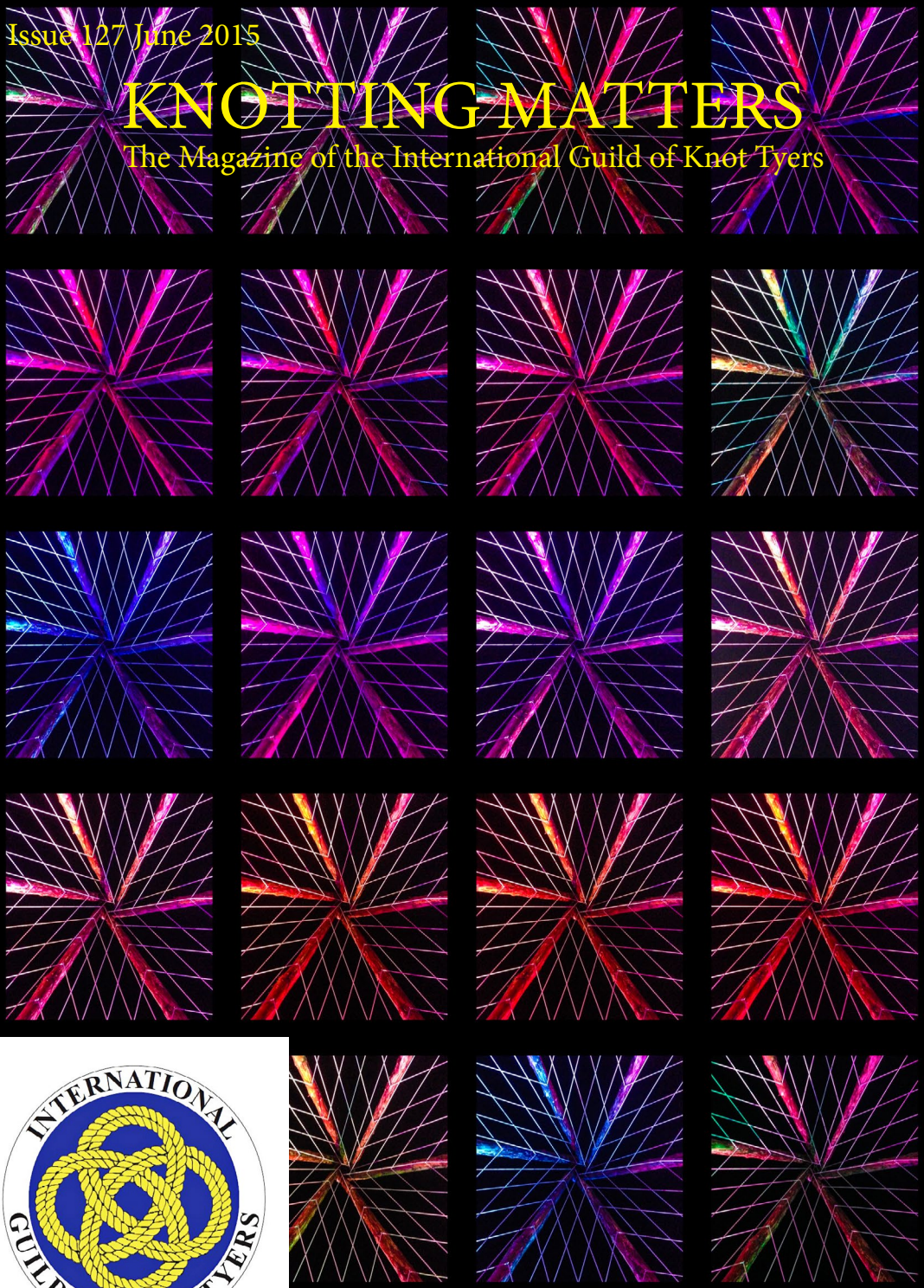
Issue 127 June 2015

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers



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**Cut-off date for Autumnal Equinox Issue receipt of copy is Tuesday August 11, 2015,
Cut-off date for Winter Solstice issue receipt of copy is Tuesday November 10, 2015.**

***Front Cover** Andy Warhol? No - A Pioneering project in Miami, Florida - see p. 33 Ed.*

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of IGKT Executive Committee meeting March & May 2015
Out of 14 members we had 10 attendees and three apologies.

Future meetings:-
October 2015 half-yearly meeting, Rotterdam
May 2016 AGM potentially Hampshire (south of England)
October 2016 Half-yearly meeting, France
Watch out for more details.

The Bushby document is now available for download! See page 26/27 of this issue. Our thanks go to all those who worked so hard to bring this document to fruition.
Our Otley AGM was successful but we found that lessons learned include the strong need for popularity of locale with the public, local signage and pre-publicity and offers to join the Guild being followed up by the organizing Committee. We anticipate that both Rotterdam and Fareham should benefit from the above successful features in France's recent venues as Dieppe and Dunkerque.
We also noted that making links to other like-minded organizations through our website would be beneficial to us and to them.
North American Branch members are encouraged to contact their Board members to find out what activities are occurring in the near area. The visit of L'Hermione to the USA was noted in particular as an opportunity nearly lost. Recruitment and retention are to be our watch-words going forward under the combined efforts of your Editor with John Staley and Willeke van der Hamm - worldwide coverage!
We congratulate our new Webmaster on the design and execution of the new website for the Guild. Further improvements are being made as we go to press.
Our next meetings will be 13th September 2015 and 15th November 2015.
David Pepper
Secretary Executive Committee

Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Announcement of Passing

We regret to announce the passing of Howard Denyer of the Surrey Branch. Howard Denyer, Guild member since the early 1980's, Guild Video Archivist and Surrey Branch Chairman passed away on 26th March 2015.

Not Knotting in Scouting?

When I recently received the Knotting Matters, Issue 125, I was distressed to read "SCOUTS ABANDON KNOTTING" referencing to the Scouting Movement, intended to stop teaching knotting. I honestly thought this must be an early April fool's joke. After a quick search on the internet, I found articles in the Daily Mail and The Telegraph confirming this. This prompted me to look at how the Boy Scouts of America, BSA, has changed in relation to knots over its 105 year history. To do this I examined 12 different editions of the BSA handbook. I specifically looked at the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, the BSA's highest rank.

The BSA requirement of being able to tie knots has ranged from a total of 4 knots being required in 1911 to 6 knots and 3 lashings and whipping/fusing the end of a rope in 2015. In the time between, it has gone as high as 12 knots, splices, and lashings to as low as none required at all.

A brief overview of the major changes:

When the first edition of Boy Scouts Handbook was published by the BSA in 1911, the rank of Tenderfoot required a Scout to be able to tie four knots from a list of nine. No further knots were listed as being required in order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. At this time, a boy could earn Eagle with knowledge of only 4 knots.

In 1915 the requirements for Eagle were changed to include the Pioneering merit badge. This badge's requirements included being able to tie six knots and make scaffolding with lashings; no specific knots or lashings were identified. Tenderfoot still required a Scout to tie four knots. The rank of Eagle now required knowledge of a total of 6 knots and lashings.

In the third edition of Revised Handbook for Boys (1927-1940), Tenderfoot requirements were changed to require tying the square knot and eight others from a list of 18. The rank of Eagle still required the Pioneering merit badge, which now required tying 12 knots and ability to use lashings properly; no specific knots or lashings were identified. The ability to tie 12 different knots, as well as lashings, was now required for the rank of Eagle.

The fourth edition Revised Handbook for Boys (1940-1948) made changes to the Pioneering merit badge to include tying 12 knots and hitches as well as to know the long, short, and eye splice. Lashings were updated to specifically list; the square, diagonal, and sheer lashings. These changes made a total of 12 knots and hitches, 3 splices, and 3 lashings required for earning the rank of Eagle, the highest total in the history of the BSA.

In the fifth edition of the Handbook for Boys (1948-1959), the requirements for Tenderfoot were changed to include the use of a square knot with a bandage and to whip the end of a rope, as well as four specifically listed knots. The requirements for First Class included - one knot, and to improvise camp equipment with lashings. No specific lashings were listed. The Pioneering merit badge was dropped as a requirement for Eagle. A total of 6 knots, lashing in general and whipping the end of a rope were now the only knot requirements for Eagle.

No major changes involving knots and lashings were made again until the seventh edition of Boy Scout Handbook (1965-1972). The requirement for lashings was changed to specifically list the square, diagonal, and sheer lashings as a First Class requirement.

The eighth Edition Scout Handbook (1972-1979) listed no requirements for a scout to know any knots. At this time it was possible for a boy to earn the rank of Eagle and never be required to know how to tie a single knot. This represented the low point in history of the BSA for knots.

The ninth edition Official Boy Scout Handbook (1979-1990) marked the return of knots to the BSA. The First Class rank now required a scout to earn the Camping Skill Award. This award required whipping a rope and the tying of six knots. Lashings were once again required, specifically, the square, sheer and diagonal.

The tenth Edition Boy Scout Handbook (1990-1998) dropped the skill awards and returned knots and lashings to rank requirements. The rank of Scout was introduced and required tying a square knot in order to join a troop. The Tenderfoot rank now required tying two knots, as well as to whip and fuse the ends of a rope. First Class now required knowing three knots and three lashings. No other knot related requirements were listed for Eagle.

Knotting requirements remained unchanged until the twelfth Edition Boy Scout Handbook (2009-present) when the additional requirement for a Tenderfoot to teach the square knot was added. As of 2015 the Boy Scouts of America require a total of 9 knots, lashings and whipping/fusing the end of a rope for the rank of Eagle.

Merit badges have changed much over the history of the BSA. In 1911, only one merit badge listed knots as part of the badge, Pioneering. In 2015 there were 7 merit badges that listed knots: Climbing, Fishing, Fly Fishing, Kayaking, Pioneering, Rowing and Small Boat Sailing. These merit badges listed 28 knots, 5 lashings, and 3 splices.

The importance of knots has ebbed and flowed in the BSA from four being required in 1911 to a high of 12 knots, 3 splices, and 3 lashings in the 1940s to a low point of none in the 1970s back to 6 knots and 3 lashings from 1979 to present. Of the original 9 knots listed in 1911, of which only 4 were required, 6 are still required providing a link from today back to the beginning of scouting. Knots are, in my humble opinion, an important and indispensable foundation stone of scouting that desperately needs to be kept.

Patrick C Glisson
Louisville, KY

IGKT Trustees

Jeff Wyatt has decided to step down from the position of Guild Trustee and we thank him for being willing to take the position for the last two years. At the recent AGM his successor, Maurice McPartlan, was elected unanimously. Many of you will know of Maurice's work in the Advanced Knotting DVD and may have heard him talk about that at the AGM in Hoylake two years ago.

More recently he has been one of the mainstay members of the Bushby transcription team and much of the editing, and all of the indexing, has been done by him. We welcome him to this position of responsibility and look forward to his wise counsel in the future.

Colin Byfleet, Secretary, IGKT Trustees

Federer knot

submitted by Graham MacLachlan

He may be considered by many as the greatest tennis player of all time but, when it comes to knot-tying, Roger Federer has perhaps a thing or two to learn. In the first round of the French Open 2015, pitted against the Colombian Alejandro Falla, the Swiss ace could be seen sporting his usual tie-up headband to keep sweat and hair out of his eyes. To any observant knotter it is clear that the Helvetian tennis champion is using a granny knot to hold his fashionable headgear in place. Indeed, unlike the reef knot whose working ends lie parallel to the standing ends entering the first half of the knot, the granny knot's ends lie perpendicular or crossways to them. It is true that the granny holds better than the reef, but only once it has settled. That initial slip does not pose too much of a problem when what is needed is a bend (especially if it is secured by half-hitching the ends around the standing parts on either side of the knot) but it is disastrous in the case of a binding such as a shoelace or a headband. And sure enough, when the great man is on the court you will see him regularly retighten it. Looking at the Nike website, the makers of said headband do indeed recommend it be tied with a reef knot. So, Mr Federer you should really be using a reef knot for your fancy headband; it would hold better and be easier to undo at the end of a hard match. Should we tell him? [***Photographs next page - Ed***]

Roger Federer's Headband - Knot Right on the Head?

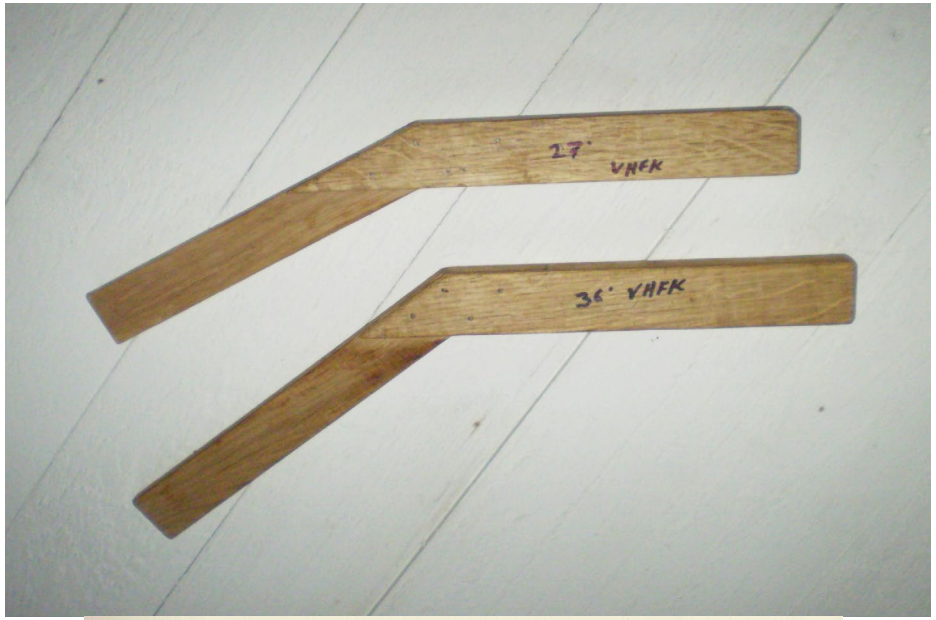
Dear Sir,
There are two attachments to this mail [***next page - Ed***]. One attachment shows the photograph of my grandson Deepankar who has recently undergone a surgery of his left hand ring finger. As the deep cut would take about a month to heal, the left hand is to be rested on a sling.

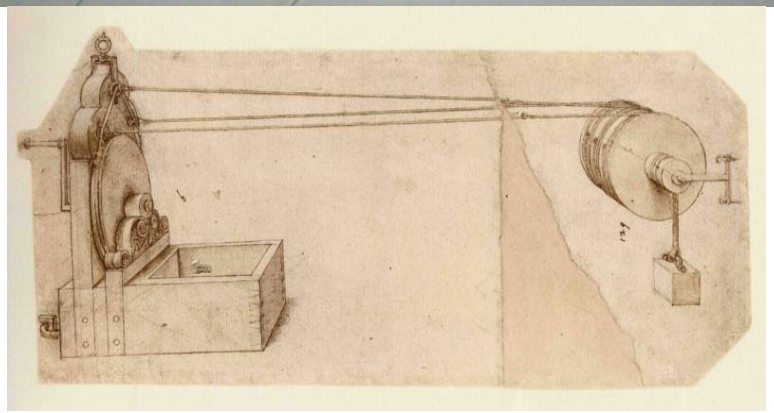
The second photograph is that of the sling created at the hospital using a length of bandage, a length of flattened cotton and three simple knots. The top portion of the sling consists of flattened cotton rolled inside the bandage. The length of this cushion which goes around the neck is defined by an Overhand Knot (ABOK 46) at either end. The knot at the centre of the sling which divides the sling into two adjustable loops is Half Knot (ABOK 47). It permits widening of the lower loop while putting the palm through the loop. The lower loop can be adjusted to the size of the wrist once the palm has been put through. At the lower end of the loop, the Double Slip Knot (ABOK 1219) has been tied using the two rolled ends of the bandage. It takes the weight of the hand and this is where the wrist rests.

I find that the Sling with Adjustable Loops has been created using inexpensive materials, three simple knots and has practical use.
Yours faithfully,

Satish Patki
India

The cutline, the groove between the strands, was most important [***in rope-making***]. Therefore, they [***rope-makers***] have some set-squares to check the angle between the strands. 36 degrees – normal rope and 27 degrees for Boltrope/leech rope. These are my copies of those which have been used in the Royal Rope Yard in Karlskrona, Sweden, during the 1700s.
Lee Radehag





"How I Did It"

by Mabel Marble

I tried to show the bight boundaries in the picture as I learned from Tom Hall's ***Introduction to Turks-Head Knots*** - my main reference and learning book.

I try to estimate the type of Pineapple and the bight nos. from my previous experiences rather than using Advanced Gridmaker. For this one I chose a 5B based combination as it closes up fine and gave the perfect fit for this 24 x 30 mm sized cotton egg and the 2 mm type 1 paracord. Possible turksheads in this combination are 9L 5B, 7L 5B and 3L 5B. A 4B combination would be more versatile in giving more lead possibilities, but I'm not sure about the angles of the knot.

I tie the initial 9L 5B turkshead by using enlargement process 2 or following the cord on the left i.e. better is saying staying above/ahead of the cord you are following as it then doesn't change when going down. I have made a video about the 5L 3B. Phil@gr8uk shows how to tie a 9L 5B on Youtube or one could use Gridmaker.

The second 9L 5B is then tied to the right of the first one - staying inside the bight of the first on the left side and creating its own bight boundary on the right [***Photo 1***]. The 2 other turksheads - 7L 5B and 3L 5B stay inside the bight boundary 2 - i.e. inside of the 2 initial knots. That defines a type 2 Pineapple knot.

The third knot - neon yellow 7L 5B - is then started on the left side on the right of the neon green [***Photo 2***]. It follows the neon green and thus stays below it, but only to the one before the last. Then it goes down, staying below the white and following it.

The last one - pink 3L 5B - is put into the middle, where I expected the widest part of the egg to be [***Photo 3***]. It could have been put one to the left possibly and might have worked out, too. Up to this one it was a 3-pass Pineapple knot. I am not so sure if it is correct to call it a 4-pass because the 4-pass occurs only where this last knot is involved ("pass" meaning here each cord goes over 4 cords which is not so throughout.)

I tied the first 2 knots on the wine cork and then transferred to the egg interweaving the next 2 [***Photo 4***]. In my other projects I tied more on the cork and transferred later.

Hope this is explained well enough.

Photo 1

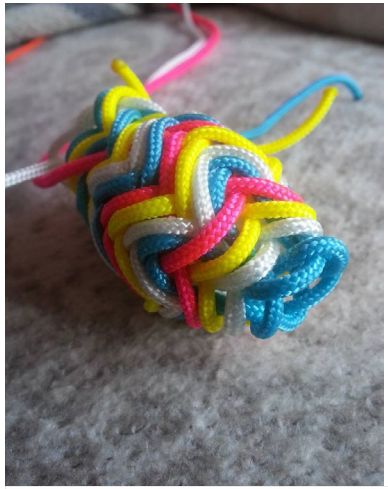


Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 2

Rope-Making Machine

by Jens Gunne Johansen as sent by Tore Erikson

Hi!
Your member Jens Gunne Johansen, Porsgrunn, Norway, (jens@kfdi.net) asked me to send you these photos [***see page 16***].

They show an old ropemaking machine made from old bicycle-parts. A couple of old sailors made the machine and took it to town to show people how to make rope. Probably a few years ago, looking at the rusty parts. The machine can be seen at the museum Frederiksværn Verft at Stavern. Frederiksværn (now: the town of Stavern) is an old navy station closed down many years ago. The people of Stavern (a small coastal town at the south-east part of Norway) are very proud of their tradition. Maybe of interest if you are surfing: http://www.visitstavern.no/ http://www.fredriksvern.no/

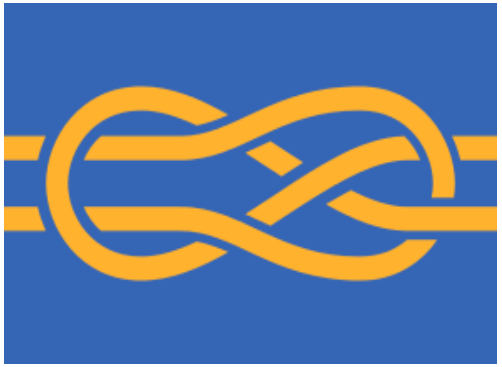
Regards,
Tore
Photos: Jens Gunne Johansen

Postscript: Hi!
My friend and your member Jens Gunne Johansen made a nice knife-shaft, and I made a humble leather sheath to emphasize the shaft. Navy blue, of course. The signal is supposed to be the "Splice the main brace".

Regards from Norway,
Tore
Photo: Tore Eriksen

The FIAV Knot

by Geoffrey Budworth



(Image scanned from Wikipedia)

This is the flag of the **Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques** (FIAV), which appears in the 2014 re-launched 6th edition of *Complete Flags of the World – the Ultimate Pocket Guide*, published by Dorling Kindersley, ISBN 978-1-4093-5515-1. The word 'vexillological' first appeared in print in 1959 and it is a hybrid (half-Latin, half-Greek) which refers to the study of flags, their history, symbolism and usage, as well as, more generally, any interest in them.

A blue field is embellished with a yellow charge (or emblem), which the DK book describes as 'two halyards (ropes) forming two interlaced loops' and Wikipedia asserts 'depicts a sheet bend'. Without knowing how the four hidden ends are deployed, however, some of us KM readers might quibble about those descriptions. That aside, as flag design is influenced by heraldry, so blue is held to represent water and sky, as well as to symbolize justice and prosperity, while yellow suggests sun, wealth and plenitude. Their combination in this flag is intended to portray the link between all the countries of the world.

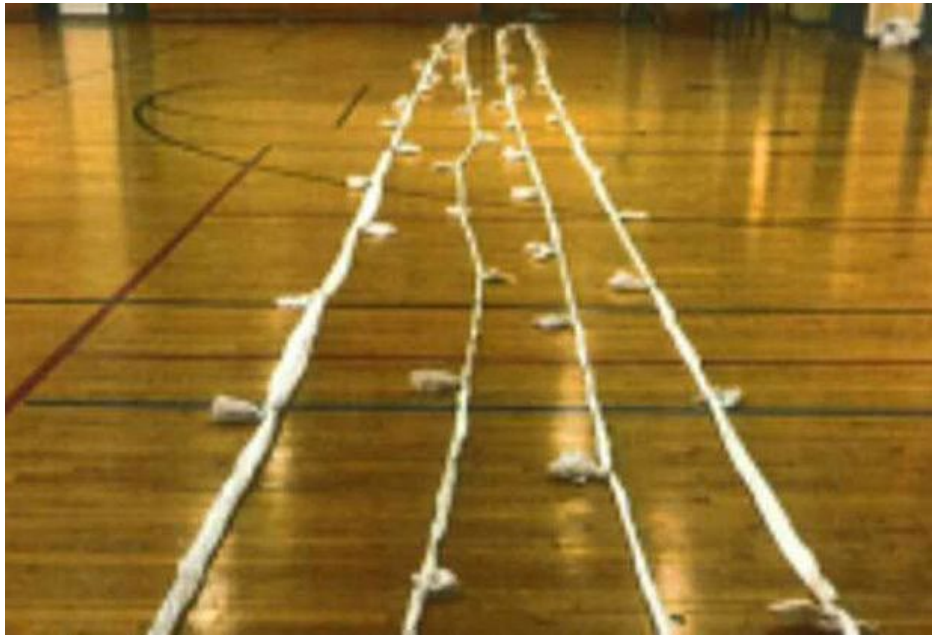
∞ oOo ∞

64 Knotted Bed-Sheets

from our UK stringer

British newspapers, dated 19 June 2015, printed a story of the staff at the USA's Manhattan Detention Centre, NY, finding 64 knotted bedsheets hidden under the sink in a prisoner's cell. Ernest Murphy, who awaited a charge of involvement in a fatal shooting, denied planning to escape. But what other explanation could there be for his possession of an improvised 100-foot rope? Prison bosses will want to learn how he acquired the sheets, while KM readers must wonder (a) what knots he used, and (b) if they would have held as he shinned down from his 11th floor location to street level.

∞ oOo ∞



Part of John Riching's Richness

From John Richings, Wales, April 2, 2015
Eight photos : Nested hemispheres....140mm diam inside 180mm diam inside 250mm diam, but inside the 140mm are 4 semispheres (4 quarters). Internal hemisphere 80mm diam, 2 mats inside 250mm and finally the 4 semispheres.....Enjoy !

This internal hemisphere is 2mm, 2ply and 10.2 yards/9.33metres. The 250,180 and 140mm hemispheres used 3mm cord and total usage for six hemispheres was 183yds/167.3metres. The 70mm semispheres used 1.4mm cord.

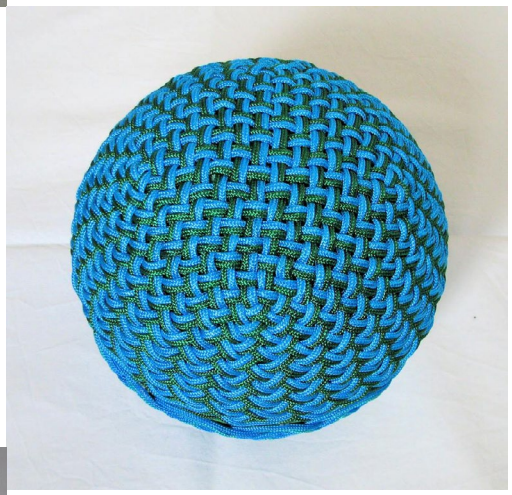
The shells are polystyrene painted with acrylic.

Above - inside the outer shell - 250 mm diameter

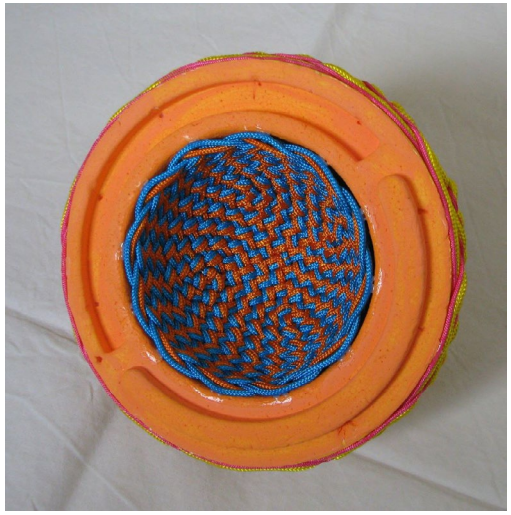
Above - inside the center shell - 180 mm diameter

Left - the inner hemisphere covering over the quarters

Right - the blue/green first internal hemisphere



Below inside the center shell - 140 mm outer diameter & 80 mm inner diameter



Below - the inner quarter spheres

Left - outside everything [***including my mind!***]

AGM 2015

from Our Roving Reporter

"Ey up, thas i' Yorksha naw"

It is not often that the IGKT Annual General Meeting travels north in the UK, but you can always be sure of a friendly welcome. This year the meeting was held in the small market town of Otley on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales.

Some sixty members, representing six countries, gathered for the meeting, along with guests from as far afield as Japan, Canada and Australia.

Antoine Leroy (President) opened the meeting, commenting on some of the activities that the Guild had been involved in. He commented that the IGKT was alive and well. A minute of silence was then held for three of our members and friends who have recently passed away, Hank Boss (Netherlands), Howard Denyer and Ben Selfe (UK).

The business side of the meeting was, as ever, efficiently dealt with. Our Treasurer gave an overview of the state of the Guild finances and explained that we are in a healthy state and approaching the level of funds required by the Charity Commission. Clive Sandrey (Chairman) gave an overview of the work from the Executive Committee including the new website for the Guild that had just come on line in the past few days. Two members of the committee stood down and were replaced by two new members. Colin Byfleet (Hon Sec.) explained of the need to comply with the Data Protection Act and the reasons for not distributing a membership list. Despite the restriction placed on the Guild distributing member's details, the committee are still looking at alternatives that will be within the law.

During motions from the floor, our KM Editor, Lindsey Philpott was thanked for his hard work. Penny Bodger agreed to investigate the possibility of members being able to create their own car stickers and Ian Schofield raised the subject of model constitutions for branches. The problem of storage space for members work that had been bequeathed to the Guild on their death was also raised.

For future meetings, next year's AGM will be hosted by the Solent Branch at Fareham, and IGKT France will host the half-yearly meeting.

The formal part of the meeting was concluded with presentations to David and Sheila Pearson for their hard work. The Presidents Cup was presented to Loïc Aubren (France) and received on his behalf by Michelle Callier.

During the afternoon, Mikio Kogure (Japan) gave a fascinating presentation of the History and Culture of Knots in Japan, while Colin Byfleet updated us on the progress of the Bushby Manuscript project.

The daytime events were rounded off in the usual way with the raffle, delivered by David Pearson, ably assisted by Graham Smith.

During the evening, we retired to the hotel at Yeadon Stoops for our convivial Knot Tyers' Supper [***photograph below of Beefeater Inn***].

Michelle Callier (France) receives the President's Cup on behalf of recipient Loic Aubren

A model bellframe used to explain bellringing by Elaine Scott (UK).

Mikio Kogure (Japan) presents Japanese History and Knot Culture

[***Far left***} A knotted cross by Norman Cockburn (UK).

Ken Nelson (UK), demonstrates the dragonfly to Jeanette Chase (Australia).

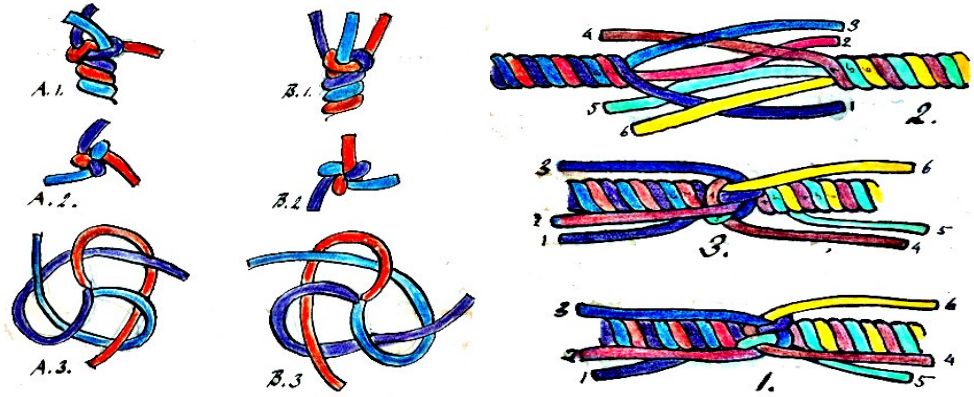
The Bushby Transcription Project

It is with great pleasure that the team involved in the editing of this lengthy document can announce that it is now complete. The end product is a 344-page pdf file which is available on the new website (still at www.igkt.net within the members only area).

We have kept a very light touch in editing, to keep to the flavour of Bushby's writing as much as possible. This means that the text does not flow as a fully publishable version would require. All the images have been included, as is an index and a 150-entry list of the reference works from which the author quotes.

The copyright of the material lies with the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA and we do ask that this is respected and that the pdf file is not made more generally available.

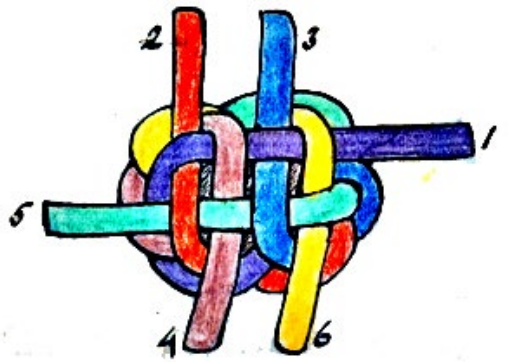
All of Volume 4 (and some from two of the other six volumes of text) of the manuscript is devoted to Bushby's attempt to make a topological theory of knots. This has been examined by a mathematician member, Lauren Scanlon, from the University of Durham, UK and her report is also available as a pdf file on the website. We are very grateful for her work in applying her expertise to the task. All the purely topological sections of the manuscript have been omitted from our edited version.



We received the following letter from the Museum's Library Director, Mary Sellen:

Colin,
Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. We have gotten the file and are going to download for our records. It is such a different experience looking at the transcription. The content really comes alive. We are so delighted with the work the Guild has done and are forever grateful for your time and interest.
At this time, because the Museum has not really tackled the issue of our intellectual property, I give the Guild permission to post the file on your "Members Only" site as your members are really responsible for this version. It is only fair that they have access. I also see no problem with members using the text to produce articles based on it providing they give the Museum attribution in the following way:
Henry Bushby's "Notes on Knots" Manuscript, 1902-1926, MS0519, The Mariners' Museum Library.
Does this work for you and the Guild?
You and the Guild have really assisted us in the most important goal of the library: providing access to our collections. Without your time, interest and financial assistance, this invaluable manuscript might have languished for years in obscurity. Please express to the Guild our gratitude!
Mary

The Guild's Trustees would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the volunteers who have contributed to this project and hope that many members will enjoy Bushby's idiosyncratic Notes on Knots.



I Found Charles Jordan

by
Patrick Spiering

A few years ago, in a conversation with Charlie Bell [***California***] about sennit frames, he mentioned a man from Oregon named Charles Jordan. Charlie said that Charles had shown him some sennit frames which he had made. They were large, elaborate, and very creative. He had quite a conversation with him and greatly admired his work. Given my strong interest in sennit frames, I knew that this was a man that I needed to contact. So periodically over the next few years I did internet searches, posted on the IGKT web site, and checked lists of Navy veterans for someone named Charles Jordan. Time and time again I came up empty. I was beginning to wonder if he had entered a witness protection program. Finally, late last year I mentioned my frustration to Charlie Bell, who replied, "I think I still have his phone number. You could just call him." Indeed, he did have his phone number, and I was finally able to contact Charles Jordan.

Over the years, Charles made and sold sennit frames on the West Coast of the United States at art fairs and in art galleries. He estimates that he made over 200 frames. It is unfortunate that in the knot tying community the work of Charles Jordan is not better known. The following story is my attempt to remedy that.

Charles Jordan was born in New York City. He never enlisted in the United States Navy, but his father was. It was his father who taught him knot tying. Charles went to a community college in California and studied art. It was at a restaurant in San Rafael, California in 1970 when Charles saw a sennit frame. It was then that he knew that he had to make one. Years later he obtained a copy of Graumont and Hensel's Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work. He made his first frame in 1976.

Charles used seine twine that he got from Englund Marine Supply, which had a number of shops from California to the Seattle area in Washington State. The 100% cotton cord is used by the commercial fishermen for nets and by the crabbers on their pots. He used 3 different sizes: 30, 60, and 120. When he started, a roll sold for about $10-15, but it was around $30 a coil when he finished his last frame.

Most frames done by Charles involve pictures of clipper ships from the golden age of sail. He also did a number of frames around pictures of landmarks from the Oregon coast.

Charles sometimes used fabric as a background or had wood showing, as seen in this picture [***above and right***].

Charles is now retired and lives with his wife on the Oregon coast. Some of his work can still be seen on the website artmajeur.com. Search for Charles Jordan and you will be able to see a variety of his work.

I continue to look for more information on sennit frames. If anyone has information on artists or history of sennit frames, please email me at kingsfoil12@gmail.com.

Knotted Knots Down Under

by Mac Mackenzie

Hi Lindsey,

Please find attached a few photographs of some recent solid sinnet work of mine. I have always loved making the sinnets but have only recently started using larger stuff. I always used to use Marlowe Waxed # 4 whipping twine, but in this instance have moved on to thicker cord. My current projects have been around making knots from sinnets and photographing them. Here I've made a 26 strand square sinnet into a Chinese Button Knot, a 31 strand Pentalpha into a Monkey's Fist, a 61 strand pentalpha into a doubled overhand knot, and an overhand knot in lengths of 91 strand pentalpha and 121 strand pentalpha. Hope you like the knots and the photographs. By the way, I've included some web addresses in this email for YouTube clips of me making some of the sinnets. Alternately you can search for "Solid Sinnet" in Google and you will find my name returned at the top of the list.

I hope the above makes for a worthy contribution to the next issue of Knotting Matters. [***Great contribution - thanks Mac!***]

Many thanks,
Mac Mackenzie
Sydney Australia.
Here are the youtube links:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPxj2Z9UYR0
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ydpx9smLAk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1PJb4Bxb2c
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDMqYdqFHtU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eV8z6674xM
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1Pc5vE0Rfw

26 strand square sinnet tied into a Chinese Button Knot

61 strand pentalpha tied into a Doubled Overhand Knot

31 strand pentalpha tied into a Monkey's Fist

91 strand pentalpha tied into an Overhand Knot

121 strand pentalpha tied into an Overhand Knot

Three knots or six knots?

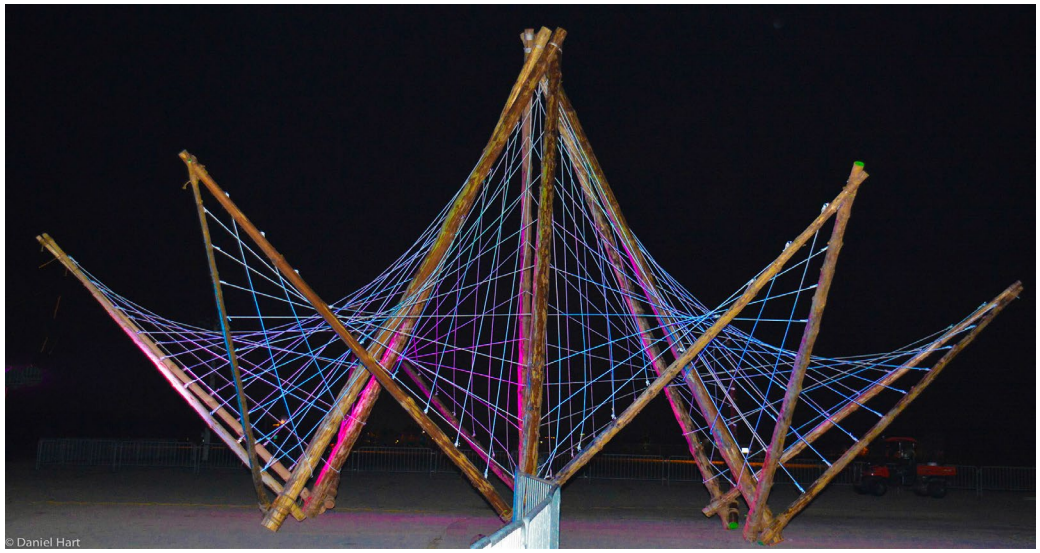
LARGE PIONEERING PROJECT

by
Daniel Hart

In 2013, the Miami Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America sponsored a three-day regional event for Scouts, to gather for a unique scouting experience. I was approached to lead a project team that would be responsible for architecting and constructing a gateway structure for the camporee. The planned location for the camporee gateway was on a hard surface so the gateway needed to be a self-supporting structure. I proposed to the Steering Committee to use traditional Scout pioneering techniques and materials in combination with a creative structural design - - a large hyperbolic paraboloid. A hyperbolic paraboloid is a curved "saddle" surface created by two distinct lines passing through each point. The illusion of the arch created by the rope would be viewed as a gateway entrance to the event. The gateway would be comprised of 6 central supports and 12 secondary arch supports thus creating 6 contiguous parabolic archways. Symbolically, the 6 archways would represent the 6 Scout districts of the greater Miami Valley Council and the 12 archway supports would represent the 12 parts of the Scout Law -- Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

[***See photograph of finished archway at night on next page - Ed***]

I began to research how to bind the 6 main timbers together at a central point as well as methods for safely securing the ends of a lashing. As a member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT.net), I consulted the IGKT forum for ideas. Through consultation with the IGKT members, I learned of the cloverleaf lashing for binding multiple poles (also known as quadra lashing) and several techniques for securing the running end of the lashing rope. The IGKT forum and members proved to be a very beneficial source of information throughout the project.

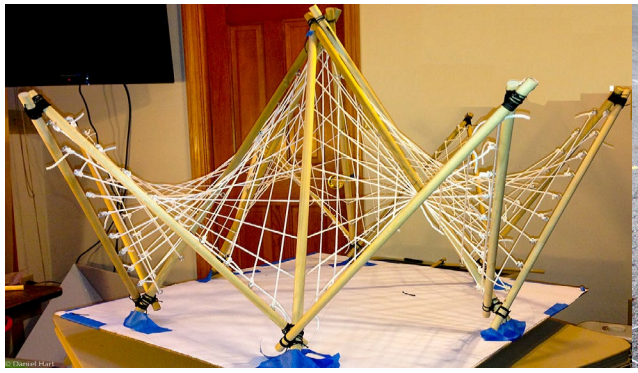


I proceeded to build a scale model of this design using wooden dowels, hobby cord, and small eye bolt anchor screws. I originally proposed using multiple colors of rope. However, my rope supplier indicated that colored polypropylene rope was expensive and difficult to supply. He suggested using white polypropylene rope for the decorative ropes to create the arching visual effect. I created another scale model using white cord [***opposite, left***]. I modified this design so that all the wood spars would be visible when viewed as approached and all the roping would pass through the eye bolt anchor screws on the inside of the structure on the main spars that made up the central supports. Instead of a single strand strung back-and-forth to create the parabolic arch, multiple individual strands would be secured on an arch support, strung through the eye bolt anchor screw on a main support, and then secured on the opposite arch support.

With the design approved by the Steering Committee, I began to search for a possible source of materials for the supports. I needed very straight supports of continuous length of at least 10m. At one of the local Scout camp facilities, several areas had been identified that needed to have white pine trees (not a native species to this region) removed to ensure healthy forest growth. Many of the white pine trees had been originally planted by Boy Scouts 40-50 years prior and met the criteria for the supports needed to build the gateway.

Final construction began three days prior to the official opening of the event. A local towing company provided a high capacity crane as well as a large flatbed truck to transport the timbers from the Scout camp to the location of the camporee. The main timbers were unloaded and positioned in order to tie the cloverleaf lashing [***below right***]. High strength straps provided by the towing company were used to secure the timbers during lifting without impacting the primary lashing. Once all of the main supports were raised into position by the crane, volunteers carefully positioned the supports to locations marked on the hard surface.

The team secured the six main supports using high-strength, static kermantle rope [***p.36 L***]. The arch supports were secured with traditional square lashings using natural fiber rope. The large eye bolt anchor screws were inserted into the main supports. A hydraulic lift was used to safely position volunteers to string the 750 meters of the polypropylene rope. After experimenting with several knots, the buntline hitch was selected to secure the polypropylene rope to the eye bolt screw anchors. The final day of construction featured inclement weather. A fellow Scoutmaster and I tied 162 buntline hitches and secured the rope ends using industrial tape within a “lightning free” construction window of 2 hours.



The gateway was now complete.

The opening ceremony for the Call of Duty Miami Valley Council Camporee was scheduled for the following day after sunset. Professional stage lighting was deployed to create a unique and picturesque view of the structure along with a coordinated musical introduction. As the first Scout walked through the archways and examined the structure, ropes, knots, and lashings, he responded in a manner that I had truly hoped to witness ….”AWESOME!”

This 14 month project proved to be quite the personal challenge in terms of project management, resources, engineering, logistics, and knot tying. Yet, still, it was a very rewarding journey. The opportunity, to use my love of knot tying in a unique setting to inspire young people to want to learn more about knot tying, was well worth the personal time investment. As I told my fellow Camporee staff volunteers at the opening ceremony,

“We built this gateway as an example to the Scouts to never be afraid of challenge even when the challenge is greater than your abilities, but not beyond your imagination.”

Note: A video of the project is available at http://vimeo.com/danhart/gateway

Rigging ropes during construction (L) and Blue Sky over the Gateway (R)

Placing Gateway supports with crane (R)

AWESOME!! (Below)

About the Author:

Daniel Hart is an Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America for Troop 316 - charted through Normandy United Methodist Church in Centerville, Ohio, USA. Troop 316 is a member of the Miami Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Miami Valley Council encompasses a five-county region near Dayton, Ohio, and serves several thousand young men and women in the programs of Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturing, and Exploring. A knot tying and pioneering enthusiast, Mr. Hart designed and constructed the above large gateway structure for the Miami Valley Council Camporee in 2013. Mr. Hart is currently employed by the University of Dayton Research Institute as a Systems Administrator.

2015 Meeting Plans

Half Yearly Meeting – Rotterdam 9th to 11th October 2015

The HYM in 2015 will take place at the Verolme Paviljoen at The Maritime Museum Rotterdam, Leuvehaven 1 . The Guild [***previously***] held a meeting in Rotterdam in 2009.

You are welcome from Friday after 1400 [***2 pm***] to set up tables and displays.

HYM starts Saturday at 1000 [***10 am***]

Accommodation. (see bookings sites trivago/ ebookers/ booking.nl/hotels.nl mostly 50-100 euros for a room)

There are many places to stay in Rotterdam & surrounding area such as:

The Inntel Hotel: Leuvehaven 80, 3011 EA Rotterdam

Hotel Best Western Crown Schiekade 658, 3032 AK Rotterdam

3 different hotels at the Witte de Withstraat Rotterdam

Tea and Coffee: Facilities are being served during your stay.

Meals: On Saturday noon a lunch is provided for the Knot Tyers.

The famous Knot Tyers Evening Supper will be held in a local Restaurant nearby the Maritime Museum, Saturday at 1900 [***7 pm***]. A contribution will be asked (***circa*** 25,- euro)

IGKT 9-11 October HYM Rotterdam 2015.

Please register by sending an email to Frits Ottens; frits.efina@telfort.nl

Please provide the following information:

Member`s Name……

Persons…….

Number of Display Tables Required (max 2 tables)…….....

Number of Knot Tyers Supper……

Preference for Main Course : Fish or Steak

Any other dietary preferences/limits: ……

Knot Your Ordinary Pretzel

by

Paul Eppleston (Photographs by Christina Eppleston)

Pretzel knots. They're so well known and boring, even Ashley himself didn't bother describing them in detail. He did mention on ABOK# 170, that this more "sophisticated" version is a "perversion of the Figure-Eight Knot". But why adulterate it at all? Instead of the traditional, boring pretzel knot, why not try some more interesting things with your dough?

It isn't hard to do and it's quite fun. However, there are some considerations that have to be made in your choice of knots, how you tie them, the recipe and baking, and your overall workflow to make it come all together.

The biggest challenge is deciding what knots to tie. The dough tends to stick to itself and, if left alone for a short amount of time, will weld in place making weaving or doubling nigh impossible. The best choices for knots are those that can be created in their final form without much tightening or working, preferably with only one or two tucks. A loose Figure Eight Knot ABOK# 520 is a great looking and easy knot to start off tying in dough. Tie it as normal, being careful to keep it uniform.

How you tie the knot sometimes needs to be modified to achieve the result you want. The Crown is a good example. Start off with two cords of dough crossed at their centers. Start crowning, but leave a finger in the bight of the first strand to facilitate the final tuck. A Wall produces an interesting pattern and has a similar challenge. Crossing two strands as before, it can be worked "backwards" where a bight is formed and the previous strand is tucked through the bight, while maintaining a bight in itself for the next tuck. The Carrick Bend yields a symmetrical and attractive pretzel but, rather than forming loops like in ABOK# 817, starting a Sailor's Knife Lanyard ABOK# 787 or the Chinese Button ABOK# 599 works better.

Follow Ashley's instructions as indicated in the first drawing for the Knife Lanyard (second drawing for the Chinese Button), but before tucking, remove the structure from your hand and bring up the line through the turn previously taken around the thumb so that the working end doesn't have to be woven over-under-over, but merely tucked through.

Each knot attempted had to be adjusted slightly like this to work around the dough welding itself together. The Ocean Plat (ABOK #2243) was the least successful for this very reason as the last strand had to weave over and under through the structure, usually leading to an amorphous blob. In retrospect, ABOK# 2254 would be a much more reasonably achieved knot. Now, one could "cheat" and essentially splice little bits of dough over the crossings rather than proper weaving, but where's the fun in that? You could also use oil to lubricate the dough, and while it does work, it interferes with the browning, flavor, and texture of the final pretzel.

Some knots do not lend themselves to the dough medium as much as one would hope. No knot that takes its form by capsizing into shape is practical to tie in dough. Multiple Crowns for example do not produce the rope-like appearance of the Crown Sinnet, due to the dough being too flexible to tighten and nestle into the previous structure. A Crown on top of a Wall is interesting, but without the ability to double or tuck down, it loses some of its charm. Braiding or other sinnets are possible, although the effect is more like a Challah bread.

The recipe used for these pretzels was Alton Brown's Soft Pretzel recipe, available for free on the Food Network website. No adjustments are needed, but to achieve better knots, you'll want to create a goodly amount of gluten, consider some issues working with dough, and another pair of hands to help.

Gluten is what gives the dough it's elasticity and body. More gluten will allow the dough to hold together better while working into shape and maintain that shape afterwards, so you'll want to use a higher gluten flour. All-purpose works great, but bread flour would be ideal. Whole wheat flour (aka whole meal flour) actually has less gluten in it than all-purpose, so if that's your preference a half-and-half mix with AP is necessary. Kneading is what develops the gluten in the dough so kneading thoroughly until the ball is no longer sticky, is crucial.

Raw pretzel dough prior to cooking [***p. 42***]

The dough cord needs to be of a uniform thickness and density, otherwise it will tear as you manipulate it. "Splicing" the dough always leaves a weak spot that will separate with any modest tugging. The proportion of length to thickness of your dough cord should also be watched to make sure you have a long enough piece to finish the knot. The knots should be tied a bit loose as the dough will rise a bit during baking, effectively tightening themselves. Tied too tight and you'll get more of a bread loaf with a relief version of the knot carved into the surface rather than the knot itself in bread form.
The soda bath and egg wash together create the deep brown color of the pretzel which will show off the surface of the knot. The soda bath chemically breaks down the surface so that it will brown before hardening and the egg wash will brown it further and give it a glossier finish. These last two steps should be done relatively quickly before they go into the oven. The longer the knots sit on the pan waiting, the longer the dough has to relax and meld, becoming the aforementioned texture relief loaf. The soda bath will mitigate this somewhat, but having another person on deck to plop the knots into the bath and brush on the egg wash while you tie helps immensely.
With your knot know-how and a few of these tips and tricks, your next batch of pretzels can be knot so ordinary!

Branch Reports

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH REPORT

The Spring meeting of the branch had the theme of finding modern replacements for the Baden-Powell six tenderfoot knots, which concluded with adoption of the "Surrey Six"

The next meeting of the IGKT East Anglian Branch will be in the Windmill Room, Abbots Hall School, Stowmarket at 2pm on Saturday 3rd October 2015. The main theme of the meeting will be "***Knots with a connection to water***" and also a new addition of "my new knot" to encourage members to find knots, which they have not tied before.

ATTENTION MATELOTEURS AND IGKT MEMBERS.

The Knot Tyers are returning to Fareham, England, for the AGM next year, **yes - 2016**!
The Solent Branch, IGKT, will host ***5 days*** of Knot Tying events; the first 3 days will be in the boat club where we hold our local meetings, FSMBC [***Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club***], Lower Quay, Fareham, post code PO16 0RA, a club which has its toes in the north corner of Portsmouth Harbour [https://plus.google.com/105580960053789912368/about?hl=en]. The last 2 1/2 days will be in the fine venue of Ferneham Hall- with a Knot Supper on the Saturday.

Lots more details to follow; we are planning Pop-Up knotting workshops, so names of Subjects, Tutors and Students who wish to name either, will help us prepare.
RSVP

Yours Aye,
Ken Yalden
+44(0) 23 9225 9280

Remembering Times Past
May 7th

100 years ago today, May 7, 1915, RMS Lusitania was sunk by a German U-Boat torpedo, with a loss of over 1,000 lives.

Today (May 7) we also say a very happy 250th birthday to the proudest old girl in the Royal Navy, HMS Victory! She was launched on this day in 1765 from Chatham Dockyard, floated slowly onto the River Medway. One of the shipwrights noticed in the early hours before her launch that the dock gates would be too narrow for her to pass through, and so he enlisted some men to chisel the gates so that there would be enough room for her to pass!

Victory was not used by the Navy (and thus placed in floating reserve) until she was commissioned in March 1778, with her first combat action taking place at the Battle of Ushant in July that year. Of course her moment of greatest glory came on 21st October 1805 when she was Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar. His death aboard cemented their two lives together and indeed is perhaps the main reason why she is still here to this day.

At present the Victory, home in her drydock in Portsmouth, cuts something of a sorry figure, largely dismasted and with great sections of her hull covered with tentage as the planks are painstakingly replaced. Undergoing a multi-million pound restoration and with many years to go before this is completed, we hope to celebrate her 300th birthday in style.

On 7th May 1765 HMS Victory was floated out of the Old Single Dock in Chatham's Royal Dockyard. In the years to come, over an unusually long service, she would gain recognition, leading fleets in the American War of Independence (1775-1783), the French Revolutionary War (1793-1802) and the Napoleonic War (1803-1815). In October 1805 she achieved everlasting international fame as the flagship of Vice-Admiral Nelson in Britain's greatest naval victory, the defeat of the French and Spanish at the Battle of Trafalgar.

Chatham, Kent is intrinsically linked to HMS Victory: In addition to her launch at Chatham in 1765, Nelson joined his first ship HMS Raisonnable on the River Medway in 1771 and in the same year joined his uncle's ship, HMS Triumph, at Chatham as a captain's servant. There is no better place to commemorate this auspicious anniversary than at The Historic Dockyard Chatham through a new exhibition which delves beneath the surface of Britain's most iconic warship. "HMS VICTORY: THE UNTOLD STORY"- curated by historian, writer and broadcaster Brian Lavery - explores Victory's career, unearthing surprising and often little known stories leading up to and in the aftermath of the Battle of Trafalgar.

HMS Victory's fame is understandably thought of in terms of that fateful afternoon at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805, when Vice-Admiral Nelson was struck down on her deck - having both secured the victory that would see Great Britain's dominance at sea for more than a century to follow and sealed that moment in history when man and ship became enshrined into Britain's national conscience. However, there is much more to Victory than meets the eye. 70 years ago today (May 8) was VE Day, when the war with Germany came to an end.

Ancient Practice Continues Into The Present

Photograph of the Past

The use of a gin (aka *gyn*) pole, sometimes wrongly referred to as sheer legs, makes lifting heavy loads relatively easy - as long as everything is kept in balance! The gin pole is fitted into a secure shoe at its base and has at least two stabilising tackles, sometimes three, that act to keep the top end of the pole in place. These massive timber roof trusses are being erected in a dry wash canyon side, during the erection of Roosevelt Dam in Arizona as part of the Salt River Project, September 1907, for the United States Bureau of Reclamation; photo by the National Archives and Records Administration #NARA 294531.jpg Sheer legs, on the other hand, comprise two spars, lashed together at the top and perhaps also with lateral bracing between, whose top may be moved up or down independent of the load, with lateral braces at the base of the legs to prevent them spreading apart.

Alaskan Branch
Every Thu. evening 6:00 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Ave., Anchorage, AK
Contact Charles Rigden
Tel: (1) 928/231-4775

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch
Contact Jean-Pierre Durand
06 64 00 66 91
durand0547@orange.fr
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Andree Treffenfeld
Hermann-Lons Str 3C, D-24558
Henstedt-Ulzburg, Germany
Telephone: +49 (0) 172 4156789
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Meeting the second Thursday of each month, in the Red Lion at Winsford from 1200 to 1600 hrs, and the 3rd Wed. at Ellesmere Port Boat Museum from 1100 to 1400 hrs; contact either Paul or Ian at rope.what.knot@gmail.com Evening or weekend meetings could be set up for those unable to be here at lunch-time.

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Frits Ottens
Tel: +31(0)587850011
Fruitstraat 58, 8933 GR Leeuwarden, Netherlands
E-mail: frits.efina@telfort.nl

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
At the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (upstairs)
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Tony Shellard
Tel: +44(0) 1483 502 156
www.surreyknots.org.uk

Sweden
Contact: Christoffer Åström
Tel: +46 736 381 731
E-mail: christoffer@knopar.se

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street,
Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146
May be subject to change - call first

West Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back Cover - Close-up view of Mac Mackenzie's 26-strand Square Sinnet Chinese Button Knot - well done Mac!
More details p. 30